

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

By Electronic Device:

Joseph Quaranta, Co-Chair	Sandra Czunas (OSC)	Cassandra Murphy
Sumit Sajnani, HITO, Co-Chair	Sarah Carr (OHA)	Susan Israel
Nicole Taylor (DCF)	Patricia Checko	Mark Gildea
Byron Kennedy (DOC)	David Fusco	Michael Crain
Gary Archambault (DPH)	Geoffrey Hook	Thomas Woodruff
Mark Raymond, CIO	Jaime Rodriguez	Rebekah McLearn (AHCT)
Cara Passaro (OAG)	Alan Kaye	Robert Plant
Josh Scalora (DSS)	Dina Berlyn	Glynn Stanton

In Person:

N/A

Absent:

Elizabeth Taylor (DMHAS)	Patrick Charmel	William Halsey (DSS)
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Other Participants:

Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	Paul Brady, OHS	Amanda Crociata, Connie
Amy Tibor, OHS	Jenn Searls, Connie	Russell Dexter, Connie
Olga Armah, OHS	Heidi Wilson, Connie	

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The HITAC met virtually on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Chair Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order. Roll call determined a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Chair Quaranta requested a motion to approve the November 21, 2024, minutes. A motion was made (M. Raymond) and seconded (P. Checko). The minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Quaranta welcomed and invited new HITAC members to introduce themselves:

- Glynn Stanton, Yale New Haven Health System
- Sarah Carr, Office of the Healthcare Advocate

CONNIE UPDATE

Jenn Searls invited Connie staff to share updates on several key areas of work as follows:

Data Quality:

Russ Dexter reported on activities of Connie’s Data Governance Committee. The group was established to guide and inform Connie’s work around assessing and improving data quality. Membership comprises 21 individuals representing 16 organizations. The group has recommended Connie focus its data quality efforts for improvement on four data elements: 1) diagnosis, 2) diagnosis description, 3) discharge

disposition, and 4) discharge location. Russ described why these elements were selected. A project team has been initiated to address the quality concerns identified for the 4 elements formally. The team has initiated a root cause analysis to determine the underlying causes of underperformance. Russ shared an overview of findings so far.

Outreach & Engagement 2024 and Technical Integration:

Amanda Crociata shared an update on 2024 Connie outreach and engagement activities. Connie focused on strengthening connections within the healthcare community, engaging in outreach efforts to promote the use and benefits of the Connie portal. Amanda described some of the initiatives. In early 2024, Connie shifted focus to in-person community practice visits to provide hands-on training and education on the portals and its care management tool, Population Explorer. She shared a utilization update, highlighting a 279% increase in repeat users of the provider portal, and patient records accessed increased by 218%. Amanda also shared significant growth achieved with technical integration, including the onboarding of 15 new EHR hubs.

Patient Portal & PFAC Activities:

Heidi Wilson shared an update on patient portal development and the Patient and Family Advisory Committee. Connie is on target to complete the piloting work for the patient portal by the end of January. PFAC FY 2025 membership has been formalized, comprising a diverse group of individuals from across the state.

Population Health Reports:

Heidi shared that Connie is creating two population health reports in 2025:

- 1) demographic report, and
- 2) hospital revisit report

Heidi shared a comprehensive description of each report, including a mock-up and key features of the demographics report. The full presentation can be viewed here:

ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_01-16-2025.mp4

Alan Kaye inquired whether a breakdown of Connie users exists. Jenn replied yes, and that, to date, provider organizations are the major users of Connie. This data can be broken down and shared at a future meeting. Alan then inquired whether other state HIEs can interface with exchanges such as MyChart. Discussion ensued; Heidi commented that the capability is there; however, organizations would need to want to leverage that data point to be able to pull it into their system. Connie would not be able to make that determination, but capability is available through the Carequality interoperability framework. The full conversation can be heard here: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_01-16-2025.mp4

Sandra Czunas inquired whether consideration has been given to connecting CT-Wiz data with Connie. Jenn mentioned possible restrictions within the CT-Wiz statutory language. Sandra shared that immunization data is one of the quality measures that the state employee's health plan is using for its value-based primary care initiative. Chair Quaranta inquired whether legislative changes have been proposed, he remarked that this is a frustration shared across multiple constituents. Sumit shared that a legislative change in 2022 did not go far enough and additional change would probably be needed. He stated that conversations have occurred with OHS and DPH.

Heidi continued her update by presenting a new feature within the Connie system. Connie is now live with dispensed medications in its Medication Management tool. Heidi demonstrated the tool, highlighting its

ability to facilitate medication reconciliation and deprescribing; the full demo can be viewed at approx 37:00: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_01-16-2025.mp4

OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL HEALTH IT REPORT TO CGA (OHS Staff)

Sumit presented a background and overview of the structure of the annual health IT report due to the CGA Feb. 1st. Sumit shared key accomplishments throughout the report and then invited OHS staff to present on their respective sections throughout the report.

VOTE: ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL HEALTH IT REPORT TO CGA

Chair Quaranta requested a motion to accept the OHS Annual Health IT Report. A motion was made (A. Kaye) and seconded (P. Checko). The Annual Report was accepted unanimously.

- Tyra Anne Peluso shared accomplishments related to HIE regulations development, including progress achieved through engagement with the HIE Regulations Advisory Subcommittee (RAS) and the Public Act 24-19 Legislative Workgroup. A report of recommendations by the PA 24-19 workgroup was submitted to CGA. OHS is now drafting regulations and expects to release a draft for public comment in the 2nd quarter of 2025; Tyra noted that this date is subject to change.
- Paul Brady shared key achievements throughout 2024 around the implementation of the collection of Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Disability (REL-D) data. OHS published the first iteration of a REL Implementation Guide and Data Standards in 2021. In 2024, OHS published a v4.0 REL-D master toolkit to support providers and state agencies with data collection. V4.0 includes updates made in response to OMB's release of SPD No. 15. Paul also shared that concurrently, in 2024, OHS coordinated the use of ARPA funds for several major projects.

AMENDMENT: on 3/20/25 the draft minutes were amended to reflect the following statement made by Paul Brady in relation to the clinical data received by OnPoint to support the creation of a health equity dashboard:

"OHS has engaged OnPoint to create a health equity dashboard that will integrate demographic and clinical data offering actionable insights to racial health disparities". For the record, during the 3/20/25 meeting Paul's above statement was clarified by Olga Armah to explain that OnPoint receives only data from the APCD, and no other entity, and the data from the APCD contains ICD-19 and CPT codes that are included on the claims.

- Olga Armah shared a comprehensive report on some of the notable achievements made in 2024 for the All-Payer Claims Database program around data enhancements & utilization and operational enhancements. Olga shared that the annual health IT report also includes a complete list of how APCD data is being utilized. Olga shared that OHS has an online inventory of all OHS databases, authority to collect, purpose, content, uses, and how to access data. Olga's full presentation of 2024 achievements can be found here: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_01-16-2025.mp4

AMENDMENT: on 3/20/25 the draft minutes were amended to reflect the following statement made by Olga Armah in relation to her presentation on approved external data released, specifically the LDS that is shared with hospitals in accordance with state statute.

Olga stated "...what is different about this data release [to hospitals as part of their community benefit program] is that there's a statute that requires OHS to provide a LDS as compared to all other data sets [given] to other entities... which is they tend to receive a de-identified data set. The hospitals are receiving a LDS because they need zip code information to help target interventions they develop with

their health improvement strategies. Hospitals are also required to report to OHS on their community benefit programs.” Olga’s full statement can be heard at approx. 1:26:00 in the recording: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_01-16-2025.mp4

Sumit shared further clarity on the report’s structure stating that the sections were designed to update the 5-year health IT plan and the programs separately. Josh Scalora expressed thanks and acknowledged the breadth of the work that was reported.

HIE REGULATIONS UPDATE (Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS)

Tyra shared a progress update on HIE development

- The PA 24-19 Workgroup contributed valuable expertise and insights and OHS is currently exploring opportunities for continued collaboration with the group.
- A report of recommendations was submitted to the CGA, and any legislation that may arise from the report would be at the discretion of the CGA.
- The report was organized into two main sections: 1) recommendations for OHS to consider promulgating regulations; and 2) recommendations requiring legislative change.
- Next steps include meeting with RAS to communicate the PA 24-19 Workgroup report and drafting the regulations. Tyra stated that all recommendations in the PA 24-19 report will be carefully reviewed and evaluated during the development of HIE regulations, and RAS will be convened, as needed, to provide feedback and advice during the drafting process.
- It is anticipated that the draft regulations will be published for comment in Q2 of 2025. However, this date is tentative and subject to change depending on not only the internal reviews but the current legislative session. Sumit elaborated on a request by PA 24-19 workgroup members for continued engagement through the regulations development process.

Sumit elaborated on a request by PA 24-19 workgroup members for continued engagement through the regulations development process. Sumit reminded HITAC of the various groups currently in place to provide guidance on regulations, including HITAC and RAS. Additionally, Connie has its own board. Sumit discussed some of the options being explored for this continued engagement, including the possibility of expanding the membership and scope RAS.

Susan Israel requested clarification regarding the potential mechanism for ongoing engagement of the PA 24-19 through the RAS as legislation and regulations are being formatted. Sumit responded that this would be a counterproposal to the group, which would require a RAS charter change. Susan commented that expanding RAS is worth exploring, noting that many of the PA 24-19 members had very specific concerns and recommendations regarding privacy, and she hoped that those kinds of requests and concerns would continue from RAS and the PA 24-19 members, as well, as things progress. Sumit indicated that alternatives would be proposed; he noted that we’re also in an active legislative session and monitoring whatever might come up.

2025 UPDATES & PLANNING (Sumit Sajjani, HITO)

Sumit shared updates on the following:

- **Statewide Health IT Strategic Plan** – statute requires that the statewide health IT plan be updated periodically. The last plan was submitted in 2022; a lot has changed or evolved nationally or at state-level since this time making it valuable to reopen the plan and begin considering adjustments with a target of Feb 2026 to resubmit.
- **Advance Planning Documents** – April 2025 is targeted to bring the APD to HITAC for a vote

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There were no announcements made. Chair Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Statutory Citation: [CGS §17b-59f](#)

UPCOMING MEETING:

February 20, 2025

All HITAC Meeting Material & Information is published on the [OHS Website](#)